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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/193,833 11/17/98 GAINNEY

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EXAMINER

L.E.D.	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2177
DATE MAILED:

07/17/01

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

SM

Office Action Summary

Applicant No.

09/193,833

Applicant(s)

GAINEY ET AL.

Examiner

Debbie M Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 1998.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 5/7/01 (paper # 8) with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1, 4-7, 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Angotti et al (US Patent 6,182,059).

As to claim 1, Angotti discloses an automatic electronic message interpretation and routing system comprising:

receiving a message in an enterprise mail system, said a message from a human message sender (fig. 1 # 50, col. 3-4, lines 66-2).

categorizing said message by selecting a first category entry from a category database, said category entry containing information for handling particular incoming message (fig. 2b, # 116b, col. 2, lines 59-64, col. 3, lines 15-37, col. 4, lines 3-32, col. 9-10, lines 33-19).

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creating a response message using said first category entry, said response message including a response body defined in said first category entry and a set of recipients defined in said first category entry (fig. 2b, step 116a, step 124, col. 4, lines 54-62, col. 7-8, lines 45-25, col. 10, lines 10-28).

As to claim 4, Angotti discloses a communication system comprising:

receiving a first message in an enterprise mail system, said a first message from a first human message sender (fig. 1 # 50, col. 3-4, lines 66-2).

storing said first message in a message database (fig. 1, # 10, col. 4, lines 1-5);

assigning a category entry from a category database to said first message, said category entry containing information for handling particular incoming message (fig. 2b, # 116b, col. 2, lines 59-64, col. 3, lines 15-37, col. 4, lines 3-32, col. 9-10, lines 33-19);

delivering said first message to a first enterprise mail system; providing a template response message to said first enterprise mail system user using information said category entry (fig. 2b, col. 4, lines 54-62, col. 7-8, lines 45-25, col. 10, lines 10-28).

As to claim 5, Angotti discloses assigning a category entry from a category database to said first message is performed by a rule processor (fig. 1, # 35, fig. 2a, step 108, col. 5, lines 10-36).

As to claim 6, Angotti discloses assigning a category entry from a category database to said first message is performed by said enterprise mail system user (fig 2b, step 116b).

As to claim 7, Angotti discloses wherein providing a template response message further comprises providing a set of default message body sections for said template response message (fig. 2b, steps 114a, 116a).

As to claim 12, Angotti discloses wherein said message database comprises a relational database (fig. 1, # 32, col. 9, lines 14-25).

As to claim 13, Angotti discloses wherein one of said recipients comprises said human message sender (figs. 1, # 5, 40, col. 7-8, lines 45-25).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angotti et al, (U.S Patent 5,862,325) as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Gormley et al (U.S Patent 5,806,057).

As to claim 2, Angotti does not explicitly teach recipient comprises a carbon copy recipient. However, Gormley 's invention discloses the computer is programmed to automatically generate lists of carbon copy recipients (fig. 8, 17, 19, 25, 24b, 29, 33a, # 501, col. 2, lines 9-12, col. 15, lines 30-38, col. 18, lines 1-67, col. 19, lines 1-11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was

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made to utilize a carbon copy in an e-mail system in order to provide better communication among users in a network.

As to claims 8-11, Angotti does not explicitly teach one set of default message body sections comprising: a salutation, a body header, a closing, and a footer.

However, Gormley's does teach those features (fig. 8, 17, 19, 25, 24b, 28, 33, # 486, 467, 34a, col. 16, lines 64-65, col. 17, lines 56-67, col. 25& 26). One of ordinary skill in the art is motivated to modify Angotti according to Gormley to generate a response with a predefined form in order to speed up the response time.

6. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angotti et al, (U.S Patent 5,862,325), as to applied to claim 1, and further in view of Linstead et al (U.S Patent 5,548,753).

As to claim 3, Angotti does not explicitly teach recipient comprises a blind carbon copy recipient. However, Linstead's invention discloses a blind carbon copy recipient in the e-mail system (col. 2, lines 25-36, col. 3, lines 31-35, col. 7, lines 51-54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to utilize a blind carbon copy in an e-mail system in order to provide better communication among users in a network.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

If a reference *indicated as being mailed* on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Macia Fletcher whose telephone number is (703) 305-4903 for faster service.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debbie M Le whose telephone number is (703) 308-6409. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

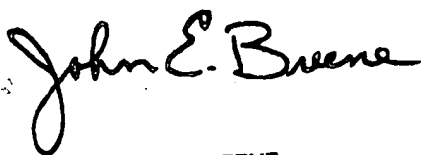
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-5357 for regular communications and (703) 308-5357 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Debbie Le
July 6, 2001



JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100